



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Contractor and  
Cooperator  
Report No. 12

October 2005



Electronic Report from the Economic Research Service

[www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

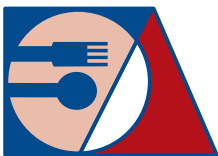
# Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Small Grants Program: Executive Summaries of 2004 Research Grants

**Editor: Eileen Stommes**

## Abstract

This report summarizes research findings from the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Small Grants Program. The Economic Research Service created the program in 1998 to stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance and nutrition issues and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in these issues. The report includes summaries of the research projects that were awarded 1-year grants in summer and fall 2003. The results of these research projects were presented at the December 2004 Small Grants Program conference. The projects focus on the economics of obesity, food insecurity and childhood obesity, food assistance program participation and household well-being, community influence on food assistance and dietary choices, and welfare reform and food assistance participation. Several of the projects focus on specific populations, such as people living in the rural South and those living on American Indian reservations.

**Keywords:** Food assistance, nutrition, food security, food insecurity, hunger, obesity, childhood obesity, food spending, Food Stamp Program, food stamps, WIC, Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program



Food Assistance  
and Nutrition  
Research Program

# Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	iv
<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>Executive Summaries</b>	
<b>Economics of Obesity</b>	
The Economic Burden of Obesity Among Uninsured Individuals in the Rural South: A Case Study of Southeastern Kentucky .....	5
<i>Eric Scorsone and Janet Tietyen</i>	
The Economic Impact of Obesity in the South: Assessing Medical Spending Attributable to Obesity .....	7
<i>Jerome R. Kolbo, Amal Khoury, and Wendy Bounds</i>	
An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of the Rise in the Prevalence of the U.S. Overweight and/or Obese Population .....	9
<i>Beth Osborne Daponte and Andrew Cook</i>	
<b>Food Insecurity and Childhood Obesity</b>	
Women, Infants, and the Food Environment: Influences on Food Security and Obesity .....	11
<i>Barbara Laraia and Peggy Bentley</i>	
Is There a Link Between Food Insecurity and Overweight Status in Children? Evidence from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey ..	13
<i>Diego Rose and Nick Bodor</i>	
A Cautionary Tale: Using Propensity Scores To Estimate the Effect of Food Stamps on Food Insecurity .....	15
<i>Christina Gibson-Davis and E. Michael Foster</i>	
<b>Food Assistance Program Participation and Household Well-Being</b>	
Effects of Weight History, Resource Cycling, and Fast Food on Overall Diet Quality and Health in Low-Income Louisiana Women ..	17
<i>Carol E. O'Neil, Pamela Monroe, and Vicky Tiller</i>	
The Use of Twins To Understand the Effect of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) on Birth Outcomes .....	19
<i>Ted Joyce and Diane Gibson</i>	
Does WIC Reduce Prenatal Substance Use? .....	21
<i>Geetha Waehrer</i>	
Are Economic Incentives Useful for Improving Dietary Quality Among WIC Participants and Their Families? .....	23
<i>Dena Herman, Gail Harrison, Adelmonem Afifi, and Eloise Jenks</i>	

## Community Influence on Food Assistance and Dietary Choices

Geographic Variation in Food Stamp and Other Assistance Program  
Participation Rates: Identifying Poverty Pockets in the South . . . .26  
*William Hoyt and Frank Scott*

Assessing Nutritional Habits of Ojibwa Children . . . . .28  
*Debra Parrish*

Children and Nutrition: The Growing Health Epidemic of Diabetes  
in Indian Country . . . . .30  
*Ben Johnson and Jennifer Perry*

Participation of Latino/Hispanic Population in the Food Stamp  
Program in the South . . . . .32  
*Safdar Muhammad and Fisseha Tegegne*

Use of A “Contract for Change” To Evaluate the Effectiveness of  
Nutrition Education To Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in  
Low Income Women . . . . .34  
*Francine Steinberg, Karrie M. Cesario-Heneman, Amy Block-Joy,  
Sheri Zidenberg-Cherr, Susan Donohue, Linda Garcia, Anna  
Martin, Diane Metz, Dorothy Smith and Estella West*

Adapting the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program  
To Meet the Changing Needs of Food Assistance-Eligible Families:  
Investigating the Results of Program Response to Welfare Reform . . .36  
*Katherine Dickin and Jamie Dollahite*

## Welfare Reform and Food Assistance Participation

The Material Well-Being of Single Mother Households in the 1980s  
and 1990s: What Can We Learn from Food Spending? . . . . .39  
*Thomas DeLeire and Helen Levy*

Food Security Stability and Change Among Low-Income Women . . .40  
*Andrew London and Ellen K. Scott*

Food Stamp and WIC Take-Up and the Relationship Between Take-Up  
and TANF Recidivism Among Illinois TANF Leavers: Understanding  
Food Stamp Program Participation Decisions of the Working Poor . . .43  
*Mairead Ready, Sandra Lyons, Meejung Chin, Duck-Hye Yang,  
and Robert Goerge*

Food Security Status of Nonprofit Food Assistance Recipients  
in Selected Southern States . . . . .45  
*Odili Onianwa, Godfrey Ejimakor, Fisseha Tegegne, and  
Andrew Zekeri*

## Preface

The Economic Research Service's (ERS) Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program offers grants to social science scholars to stimulate new and innovative research on food and nutrition assistance and to broaden participation in research on these issues. To administer the program, ERS partners with five academic institutions and research institutes that competitively award grants for 1-year research projects. Most grants are for \$20,000 to \$35,000. The Small Grants Program seeks to stimulate new research on food and nutrition policy issues and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in the research effort. Moreover, it seeks to nurture the development of strong networks of researchers who interact and work collaboratively on critical food and nutrition challenges that cross local or state borders.

This report presents summaries of the research findings from the sixth set of small grants, which were awarded in summer and fall 2003. Preliminary findings were presented at a conference at ERS in Washington, DC, on December 2 and 3, 2004, and the research projects were completed in December 2004. More information about the Small Grants Program partners and many of the completed research papers can be found on the web sites of the administering institutions, listed below:

**Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, Madison**

**Focus:** The effects of food assistance programs on food security, income security, and other indicators of well-being on low-income individuals and families.

Web address: <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/initiatives/funding/usdasgp.htm>

**Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago**

**Focus:** Interactions between food assistance programs and other welfare programs, and the effects of the macroeconomy on the need for food assistance, the level of participation, and costs of food assistance programs.

Web address: <http://www.jcpr.org/usdafp.html>

**The American Indian Studies Program, University of Arizona**

**Focus:** The relationship between food assistance programs on reservations and family poverty.

Web address: <http://aisp.web.arizona.edu/foodassistance/foodassistance1.htm>

**The Department of Nutrition at the University of California, Davis**

**Focus:** The impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity.

Web address: <http://nutrition.ucdavis.edu/USDAERS/>

**Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University**

**Focus:** Food assistance research issues impacting vulnerable rural people, families, and communities in the South.

Web address: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/focusareas/health/fa/food.htm>